

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jeremiah Platt House

161-3490-007

AND/OR COMMON

Jeremiah Platt House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2005 Claflin Road

CITY, TOWN

Manhattan

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

COUNTY

Riley

CODE

161

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT

☒ PUBLIC

☐ OCCUPIED

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ MUSEUM

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ PRIVATE

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ PARK

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ BOTH

☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

☒ EDUCATIONAL / Library

☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ SITE

☒ PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☒ ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ OBJECT

☐ IN PROCESS

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ NO

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Riley County Commissioners

STREET & NUMBER

Riley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Manhattan

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas 66502

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Riley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Manhattan

STATE

Kansas 66502

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

1969

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Ks. State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

KS. 66612

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT

☒GOOD

___FAIR

___DETERIORATED

___RUINS

___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___UNALTERED

☒ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE

___MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Platt house is a two and one-half story, rectangular brick building surmounted by a gable roof with the ridge running from front (north) to rear (south). The structure stands upon a full basement, supported by walls of rough-cut limestone and a water table of dressed limestone.

In form and plan, the house represents a Victorian variation of the 2/3 Georgian house type. The principal variations to the type found in the Platt House include: 1) asymmetrical arrangement of the windows on the north and east elevations; 2) location of the front door on the east elevation, so that the house is entered from the side, rather than from the street (north) facade; and 3) an irregular, rather than axial, disposition of the principal spaces on the ground floor. (The parlor lies adjacent to the entrance hall on the house's west side, while the sitting room faces east, directly behind the entrance hall and a portion of the parlor, with a smaller room occupying the rear space to the west.)

The most prominent embellishments to the exterior are two wooden angled bay windows fronting the parlor and sitting rooms, respectively. These elements are faced with simple Italianate details, typical of those found in post-Civil War work in the region. Most other windows are rectangular, with simple dressed limestone lintels and sills. The cornice is large, yet simply moulded in a manner characteristic of many Greek Revival houses built in the eastern half of the United States between the 1820s and the 1860s.

Photographs taken in the late 19th century document the existence of a somewhat lower two-story ell to the rear (south). Treatment of this portion was simpler than on the main block, with brick lintels and a thin cornice. Its appearance indicates the ell was constructed simultaneously with, or shortly after, the main block. The kitchen and, in all probability, the dining room were housed in this section. The ell was demolished in 1928, shortly after purchase of the house by Andrew Ekdahl. Ekdahl, a carpenter, planned to convert the ell into a separate dwelling unit; however, part of the structure collapsed in the course of work. The ell was replaced in the same year by a shorter, wood-frame, two-story addition, designed and built by Ekdahl.

Early photographs, the oldest of which dates from ca. 1884, also record the existence of a small wooden porch fronting the main entrance. This element was more elaborate than, and differed stylistically from, other parts of the building. In its details, the porch was derived from Stick Style work of the 1870s and 1880s. This porch was replaced by a much larger one, which wrapped from the north to the east facade, during the early 20th century. The date of this addition is unknown; however, it was probably executed not long after the house was purchased by Joseph and Anna Neider in 1904. Neider was also a carpenter and was in all likelihood responsible for the construction, and perhaps the design, of the porch. Rounded at the corners, the porch was originally supported by four wooden Tuscan columns resting on a low parapet of rough-face limestone. The front door would appear to date from the same period and may well have been installed concurrently with the porch. Both base

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and columns were replaced in the late 1930s by four pairs of square wooden posts which maintain the spacing of the columns. These alterations were designed by Ekdahl's son, Oscar, who later founded the Topeka architectural firm of Ekdahl, Davis and Depew.

Aside from the porch and the rear ell, the Platt house has experienced little change both inside and out since its construction. These two additions, which because of age may themselves be considered historic, unobtrusively complement the main block and do not significantly alter its original character.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
00-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
00-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
00-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
00-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
00-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
00-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
1871	Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The primary significance of the Platt house lies with its association with Jeremiah Platt, an early member of the faculty at Kansas State Agricultural College (now Kansas State University) and a prominent figure in the Congregational Church in Kansas and Oklahoma. Furthermore, the building is a notable, and now relatively rare, example in Manhattan of domestic architecture erected in the decade immediately following the Civil War.

CHRONOLOGY:

Jeremiah Platt purchased a portion of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ 12-10-7, comprising 10 acres, in Manhattan Township in September 1867. This tract is currently bounded by Clafin and Wharton Roads, Sunset Avenue, and Platt Street. The Manhattan Nationalist of 13 October 1871 reported that "Prof Platt's new house is just enclosed and will be finished by the end of the term. It is of brick, two stories, with light lime stone trimmings and is built in the best manner." The house was rented while the Platts lived in Oklahoma from 1893 to 1899. Platt died in 1899, leaving the property to his widow, Jennie, who returned to Manhattan and resided there until 1904, when the property was purchased by Anna Neider for \$3000. Neider sold the property in 1917; it passed hands five additional times before being purchased by R. T. and Alice Hulshizer in 1925. The Hulshizer's ran a tea room in the house for several years, then sold the property to Andrew Ekdahl in 1928. The property remained in the Ekdahl family until 1965 when it was deeded to the Board of Riley County Commissioners. From 1965 until 1980, the house served as the headquarters of the county's ambulance service. In March 1980, it was leased to the Riley County Genealogical Society and is currently undergoing repairs for use as a genealogical and historical library.

Historical Evaluation:

A native of Plymouth, Connecticut, Jeremiah Everts Platt (1833-1899) moved with his family to Mendon, Illinois, shortly after birth. He first came to Kansas in 1856 and, after a brief return to Mendon, settled in Topeka, where he was a school teacher and assisted in the founding of Lincoln College (now Washburn University). Platt moved to Manhattan in 1864, joining the faculty of Kansas State Agricultural College. Platt's arrival occurred during the formative period of both the town, then only nine years old, and the college which had officially opened the previous September.

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Kansas State Agricultural College started as Bluemont College in 1858. Following passage of state legislation to accept the provisions of the Morrill Act in 1862, Bluemont College offered its building and 100 acres of its land for use as the state agricultural college. This offer was accepted in February 1863; classes began at KSAC seven months later. The institution was then located at the corner of Claflin Road and College Avenue, not far from the land on which Platt built his house. Ironically, KSAC was given another tract of land, along the western side of Manhattan Avenue, in the same year (1871) as Platt's dwelling was constructed. A few years later, the entire campus was moved to the new site.

While at KSAC Platt served as the first head of the preparatory department and as professor of vocal music. Subsequently he also taught mathematics and English. Platt was an important figure in the college's early development. He was held in high esteem by colleagues and was conferred an honorary A.M. by the Board of Regents in 1872. However, his active role as a prohibitionist led to the demand for his resignation by the Regents in 1889.

Long active in the Congregational Church, Platt was ordained in 1888. Following his resignation from KSAC, he worked as an agent for the church, helping to establish Sunday schools throughout the state. From 1893 until his death, Platt continued this work in Oklahoma, where he is credited with the establishment of some 150 Sunday schools.

The Platt house was built amid farmland and early photographs indicate that much of his own tract was used for these purposes. It stands outside the original plat of Manhattan and far removed from portions of the community then developed. Adjacent to the west was another 10 acre tract owned by Isaac Goodnow, founder of Bluemont College and instrumental in its reorganization as KSAC. The area has experienced considerable development since World War II; however, much of Platt's and Goodnow's farms has been preserved as open space by the County. The Goodnow house has been restored as a state historic site. This ensemble still affords some suggestion of the rural setting as it existed in the 19th century.

The Platt house is a representative example of farmhouses erected around Manhattan during the post-Civil War era. It is unusual as an example of brick construction in a region where limestone and wood constituted the principal building materials until the early 20th century. Platt's brother-in-law, William Harrison Smith, was a builder and owned a brick yard in nearby Junction City. Under these circumstances, Smith may well have been responsible for the construction of the dwelling. Given the nature of its fabric, which has experienced only minor alterations, the landscape in which it sets, and the prominence of its original owner, the Platt house stands as a valuable remnant of Manhattan's formative period.

THE ABOVE STATEMENT REFLECTS CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING AND IS SUBJECT TO FUTURE REVISION SHOULD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION COME TO LIGHT.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography

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Barry, Louise, ed., "Letters of J.E. Platt," Kansas Historical Quarterly, Volume 29,
Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1943.

Deed Books, Office of Register of Deeds, Riley County Court House, Manhattan, Kansas.

Interview: Richard W. Longstreth with Inez Ekdahl, several times in 1980.

Interview: Richard W. Longstreth with Mrs. Jeannette Lind, September 1980 (she visited
house many times around 1910).

Interview: Richard W. Longstreth with Mr. Earl Teagarden, October 1980 (he lived in
the house for a short time in 1971).

Manhattan Nationalist, 13 October 1871, Manhattan, Kansas.

Portrait and Biographical Album of Washington, Clay and Riley Counties Kansas,
Chapman Bros., 1890, p. 1130.

Riley County Genealogical Society, Kansas Kin, May and August, 1980.

Tax lists, 1868-1875, Riley County Court House, Manhattan, Kansas.

Walters, T. D., History of Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan:
Kansas State Agricultural College.

Willard, J.T., History of Kansas State College of Agriculture and Applied Science,
Manhattan: Kansas State College Press, 1940.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(SEE ATTACHED SHEET)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx 1/4 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Manhattan, Kansas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
14	708160	4340710

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

E

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

F

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

G

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

H

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION From the point at the south edge of Claflin Road directly north of the northwest corner of the Jeremiah Platt House the boundary runs along the south edge of Claflin Road east 50 feet then south 120 feet then west 65 feet north to Claflin Rd. and then east to the point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Julie A. Wortman, Kansas State Historical Society
Richard W. Longstreth, Kansas State University

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society

DATE 2-26-81

STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth Street

TELEPHONE 296-5294

CITY OR TOWN Topeka

STATE Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas St. Historical Society

DATE Feb. 26, 1981

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

